

**Department of Health and Human Services  
Grants Management Advisory Committee  
2014 Community Needs Assessment Review Subcommittee Meeting  
June 2, 2014**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Meeting Locations**

Nevada State Legislature, 401 S Carson Street Room 4100, Carson City  
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E Washington Avenue Room 4421E, Las Vegas  
Great Basin College, High Tech Center Room 137, 1500 College Parkway, Elko

**Subcommittee Members Present**

Al Conklin  
Deborah Campbell  
Dan Musgrove  
Marcia O'Malley

**Subcommittee Members Absent**

Pauline Salla

**Staff Present**

Amber Joiner, Deputy Director, Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Laurie Olson, Chief, Grants Management Unit (GMU)  
Angela Owings, Cynthia Smith, Gary Gobelman, Toby Hyman, Pat Petrie, Gloria Sulhoff, GMU

**I. Call to Order**

Laurie Olson, Chief of the Grants Management Unit in the Director's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services, led roll call of the members and having determined that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 8:20 am. She stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the community needs assessment conducted by the GMU on behalf of the GMAC. The assessment is a requirement of the Nevada Revised Statute that governs the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN). The programs listed in statute used to have set funding allocations, but the statute was revised a few years ago, replacing the set allocations with a needs assessment to be conducted every even-numbered year. The Commission on Aging (CoA) and Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CoSPD) are also required to conduct assessments every two years. The results of all three assessments are reported to Mike Willden, DHHS Director, to determine the FHN spending plan for State Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 (SFY16-17). The subcommittee's role today is not to determine which organizations to fund, but to prioritize the types of programs, or service areas, to fund.

**II. Election of Officers**

The first order of business was to elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, who should not be from the same location. Their duties include managing public comment, recognizing other committee members when they speak, and ensuring that action items include a motion, second, discussion period, and vote. The Chair would also report back to the full GMAC meeting on June 12. Marcia O'Malley indicated she would not be available to attend the June 12 meeting and volunteered to serve as the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee.

- Deborah Campbell nominated Dan Musgrove as Chair of the 2014 Needs Assessment Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Al Conklin. There were no comments or further

discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. O'Malley, the only subcommittee member present in Carson City or Elko, was appointed Vice Chair by default.

Ms. Olson turned the meeting over to Chairman Musgrove.

### **III. 2014 Statewide Community Needs Assessment**

#### **IIIA. Report**

Ms. Olson described the needs assessment process that led to the report which was distributed via email. Hard copies were also available at the three meeting sites. An online survey, which was also available in hard copy (paper), was conducted between March 11 and April 30. Responses totaled 2400, 8% of which were in Spanish. The previous survey, conducted a little less than two years ago, elicited approximately 3000 responses. The GMU also held nine public forums across the state attended by 147 members of the public, mostly service providers.

The top four service categories cited by survey respondents and forum participants as their top funding priority were, in rank order: health/mental health, family support, food security, and support for persons with disabilities and their caregivers. These categories more or less represent what the FHN is currently funding. Analysis of the top service categories by geographic area showed the same categories remained in the top four, though rankings varied somewhat between statewide, Clark County, Washoe County, and the rural counties.

The report also included a breakdown of specific areas within the broad service categories; current FHN funding; and other sources of support and oversight delegated to the specific categories.

Ms. Olson noted that during the last legislative session, health access was the most debated item in the spending plan, because the Affordable Care Act was about to roll out and they didn't think people would need health access services, yet survey results indicate this remains a top concern. Regarding food security, she commented that during the last needs assessment, it became apparent early in the process that this would come out on top. The Department created a strategic plan, the Governor created a Council on Food Security and an Office of Food Security within the DHHS, and during the last funding cycle more than two million dollars were awarded to fund food pantries and food banks.

Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator in the GMU, reported on the numbers of Nevada households classified as experiencing low and very low food security; participation in federal nutrition programs including SNAP, WIC and commodity programs, and breakfast, lunch and summer programs in the schools; and the benefits that the currently funded food grantees have provided to these households.

Ms. Olson, in referencing the breakdown of services under the category of support for persons with disabilities and their caregivers, noted that services and programs in the first three areas listed are provided for by statute. The provision also states that, if practical, they are to be funded equally, but the last needs assessment clearly indicated a greater need for respite services, so 50% went to respite and positive behavior support and independent living each received 25%.

Regarding the survey question asking respondents to choose up to ten currently funded programs they think should continue to receive funding, mental health received a 59% response rate, followed by family support at 56%, food security at 57.3% and support for persons with disabilities at 38.9%.

The report also included survey responses to a call for new ideas and common threads that recurred across all survey answers, which were a lack of transportation, lack of information about available services, and integration of services/interconnectedness of need. Lastly, the report included demographics of survey respondents' household makeup and county of residence. The back page of the report included a listing of FY14 program categories and amount of FHN funding currently awarded to each.

### **IIIB. Discussion**

The subcommittee reviewed their role in the process of determining service area funding priority recommendations and heard the status of current grantees' program performance and impact.

The Chairman recognized Connie McMullen, a GMAC member attending as a member of the public, to report on the findings of the community assessment conducted by the Commission on Aging, of which she is a member. Ms. McMullen stated that the CoA visited almost all 17 Nevada counties and surveyed service providers and consumers. Their findings showed the top priorities to be transportation, case management, and home care or home or community-based services. Case management was ranked higher among service providers, while home care was the biggest priority among consumers, but across the board transportation ranked first.

Ms. Campbell discussed the changing gender, ethnicity and employment conditions across the state and requested public data on state demographics and projections over the next several years on population, ethnicity and age to become better informed on future needs. Ms. Olson indicated she would provide that information prior to the full GMAC meeting.

The subcommittee discussed whether to break down the general categories into more specific service needs and concluded that the full GMAC might provide a better forum for that discussion. Further discussion included food security for children and changes in the healthcare system brought about by the Affordable Care Act and the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council.

Ms. Olson noted that the FHN is limited, not only in terms of how much money is available each year, but also in the number of years the fund will be active. The Fund was developed in 2000 pursuant to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement of 1998, which provides a certain amount of funds to states for a term of 25 years.

### **IIIC. Public Comment**

Ms. Olson stated for the record that she had received a letter from Florence Leroy supporting positive behavior support and one from Jessica Love from UNLV's Center for Autism supporting positive behavior support. The documents were distributed to the subcommittee members and are made a part of these minutes as Attachments A and B.

### In Las Vegas

- Allison Newlon-Moser, executive director for the American Lung Association and current president of the Tobacco Coalition, talked about the positive impact the tobacco settlement funds have had on reducing the number of Nevadans using and/or addicted to tobacco. However, the percentage of funds allocated to tobacco control has decreased over the years, with no state dollars allocated in 2009-2010. At the current level of \$1 million, they will not be

able to sustain their efforts, which will lead to a spike in adverse health conditions. Tobacco addiction is the number one cause of preventable premature death.

- Marcia Blake, executive director of James C Seastrand Helping Hands of North Las Vegas, spoke on the survey results broken down by county, which skewed the rankings of the second and third priorities. She asked the committee to prioritize needs on a county-by-county basis.

#### In Carson City

- Paula Berkley, speaking on behalf of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, commented that food security dropped from the number one priority in the assessment two years ago to number three. She stated that one in four kids and one in seven adults are food insecure, and the food banks are seeing an increase of 45% in the poundage of food they are supplying each year. She referenced *Maslow's hierarchy of needs*, which states that the basic survival needs of food and then shelter are most important and should be met first. She pointed out that the other three top needs identified by the survey have state agencies directed to address those issues, while hunger does not. She also suggested two ideas for future funding: to focus on the Food Security Strategic Plan's goal to increase participation in federal nutrition programs, and to fund model programs already proven effective.
- Cheryl Bricker, of the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership, which represents all 17 counties, stated that the Coalition uses multiple strategies and avoids duplication of services to reduce tobacco use in Nevada through prevention education and advocating for change such as smoke free entryways or parks. She stated her concern that the GMAC focus on organizations using multiple strategies, and that as statewide coalition, they fund all partners but look at individual needs.
- Spencer Flanders, high school student, relayed his experience in combatting the tobacco industry's targeting of students with learning disabilities. He asked the subcommittee to support tobacco prevention causes.
- Susan Haas, executive director and CEO of Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program, endorsed the survey's finding regarding a lack of transportation, which is the number one deterrent to receiving services. She noted that transportation is an issue with all their program partners across the State.
- Connie McMullen, of Senior Spectrum and a GMAC member, stated that when Washoe County created a master plan, the County Commissioners listed transportation first, then information access, and updating 2-1-1. She supports the top four categories in the needs assessment report, but also recommended setting a second level of priorities.
- Don Jackson, project director of PBS Nevada at UNR, described this statewide program, which has offices in Elko, Clark and Washoe Counties. Because of the vastness of the state they have been trying to find ways to reach out in urban and rural areas, and partner with agencies and organizations with similar goals. By connecting through social media they have been able to form a statewide network that is effective and economically efficient. He also commented on the positive direction taken to corroborate the survey results based on personal opinion.

- Shane Piccinini, representing the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, commented on how the survey's top four areas of need are inextricably linked. Hunger and poverty are threads that run through all the other needs. Families with tobacco, drugs, or mental health issues also have food insecurity and housing issues. She encouraged everyone to work together and plan for the future so that in the year 2025 the Fund will no longer be needed.
- Korine Vichweg, executive director of the Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation, appreciated learning that the FHN fund would be in existence for another 10-12 years. She stated this sets a goal to determine what their future needs will be and enough time to secure other funding resources. The RAVE programs support family, mental health and disabilities, and they have seen increased enrollment all their programs in the past 11 months, greatly exceeding the outcome goals in their grant award. She urged the GMAC's support for respite care.

#### In Elko

- Judy Andréson, executive director of the Family Resource Center of Northeastern Nevada, pointed out that Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are uniquely positioned to address all four top service categories. Specifically in Elko they address health, mental health, food security, and information and referral. Also, regarding the new ideas that surfaced in the survey, the FRC in Elko is working towards addressing food pantries, community gardens, nutrition education, exercise programs for adults and children, and programs for grandparents raising grandchildren. FRCs help in all these categories.

There being no further comments from the public, the subcommittee deliberated further, discussing how the effects of Medicaid expansion and the ACA might impact the current needs in health and mental health; if more weight should be given to family support and food security; and the lack of transportation to access services before reaching a consensus.

- Ms. O'Malley motioned to recommend to the full GMAC the four top categories as presented in the needs assessment report, those being health/mental health, family support, food security, and support for persons with disabilities and their caregivers, in non-ranked order, as the top priority areas for the next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

#### **IIIE. Additional Public Comment Period Offered**

There were no comments from the public in Las Vegas, Carson City or Elko.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Having concluded all business, Ms. Olson informed the subcommittee that the GMU would write up their recommendation and she would gather the demographic information requested by Ms. Campbell. She will get this information out as soon as possible to allow plenty of time for review prior to the GMAC meeting on June 12.

Mr. Musgrove thanked the subcommittee, staff and members of the public, and adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am.